

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 21 JUL 50

SUBJECT Development of Chakang Province

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C., 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The formation of the province of Chakang from the counties of Chasong (126-38, 41-28) and Kanggye (126-36, 40-58) was arranged by the North Korean authorities in order to develop the area as an industrial zone. The entire zone is under secret development plans, involving hydro-electric projects, factory construction, and establishment of a model Soviet society.
2. Development of the area was originally begun by the Japanese, who started the Changjin (127-10, 40-54) hydro-electric plant but did not complete it. After the war, the Koreans continued with the Japanese plans because the area is particularly suitable for the purpose in many ways. It is a mountainous region, with abundance of water power, large mineral resources, heavy forests, and a small population. An additional advantage is its proximity to Manchuria, and it appears that the province is to be developed in close correlation with Manchurian industry, especially the heavy industry zone at Anshan (122-57, 41-04).
3. The North Korean budget of 1950 allocates more than twelve billion won for industrial construction in Chakang Province, and half of the one and a half billion won expected from the government bond drive is to be devoted to the same purpose. At the fifth session of the Supreme People's Council, from 25 February to 5 March 1950, Yi Yu-min (李維民), head of the People's Committee of North Pyongan Province and former chief of the Korean Volunteer Army propaganda section, asked for and received a budget provision of two billion won for construction work in Chakang.
4. Major emphasis is being placed on electric power. Dams already in operation are the Supung (124-56, 40-26), which has a rated capacity of 700,000 KVA*, and the Changjin, completed since the war by the Koreans. A new project is planned on the Tongno River (126-04, 40-56) which is to provide a potential power output of 200,000 KVA. Other plants are planned on the Yalu and Tumen Rivers, so that altogether a total output of 2,500,000 KVA is to be available by 1955. This amount is estimated to be adequate for all of North Korea.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[illegible]

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archives of the United States
Approved For Release 2006/02/06
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 004
 No Change in Class. ☐
☒ Reclassified
 Class Changed To: TS S
 Date: 11/17/02
 By: 21/11/02

STAT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 2 -

5. An urban industrial center is under way in the area from Kanggye to Sochang (126-29, 40-58) and Manpojin (126-18, 41-10). The town of Kanggye has been officially renamed Chakang.
6. While these industrial developments are in progress, however, the principal real work going on is lumbering. Many of the laborers flock to work in the lumber mills as soon as the season begins in the autumn. All mills are operated by the government.
7. Because the area is so unpromising agriculturally, being very mountainous, little food is produced. Even the farmers a month after harvest are often short of food for their own families. There is no rationing, but potatoes, which with some grain are the main local crop, are collected by the government, [redacted] for re-distribution to the USSR. All agricultural production is taxed twice yearly, to be paid in kind. The food problem is so acute that the sawmill workers are paid in food instead of in money.
8. Much of the work of development in Chakang is being done by a large number** of members of the Democratic Youth Federation, mobilized from all districts. These young men are collected in a training camp on the summit of Mangnim Mountain (126-48, 40-12), where they are given both military instruction and political indoctrination. Part of their training is to work on industrial construction projects. To support this group and provide them with both food and working materials, large supplies of food, clothing, construction parts such as iron in various forms and other stuffs are brought in from other areas. Although the group of trainees is exchanged from time to time for new recruits, one of the purposes of the camp and its operation appears to be formation of a concentrated reserve army in the province. Sons of local farmers are also trained both politically and for military reserve, at the expense of the government.
9. Some labor is drawn from local residents, and is controlled through the local branch of the labor unions. In 1949, the head of the local labor union committee in a timber mill at Taehu-dong, Huchang (127-04, 41-24) County did not pay the laborers. At the end of November, the entire workers group, numbering about seven hundred, in protest at their treatment, burned down the mill, destroying all the finished products stored there and killing two men. Several hundred of the workers were arrested by the Kanggye Police Constabulary and the local branch of the Forest Police, and Soviet troops stationed in the area were said to have assisted also.*** In another instance, when the labor committee head had withheld wages from March to December 1949, the workers struck. An investigation by the Forest Constabulary resulted in the arrest of the labor union man.
10. The high mountain areas of Samsu (128-02, 41-18) and Kapsan (128-18, 41-06) are believed to be undergoing intensive fortification.
11. The governor of Chakang Province is Yi Ki-won (李起援), member of the North Korean Labor Party and formerly its chief in Hamhung (127-32, 39-54). He holds the decoration of the honorary national flag, second grade, an order rarely conferred on a civilian.

25X1

* [redacted] Comment. According to [redacted] in May 1949 the maximum power output of the Supung dam was 140,000 KVA.

25X1

25X1

** [redacted] Comment. The number was reported as three hundred thousand, but appears somewhat high.

25X1
25X1

*** [redacted] Comment. A discussion of the troops in the area is included in [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~